(b) Government have conveyed to the US Government that although the Pressler Amendment was a bilateral issue between the US and Pakistan, the transfer of sophisticated and high performance weapons systems to Pakistan would adversely affect India's security and would compel India to take all steps necessary to counter this.

Press conference of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister at High Commission in London

7099. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a press conference was arranged at the Indian High Commission in London which was addressed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in the last week of April, 1995;

(b) whether he had criticized some recognised political parties of the country and their leaders in his press conference and had also talked about setting up of a 'fighting army' and the 'frightful war' against the majority community of India;

(c) if so, whether Government have asked the Indian High Commission in London to send a text of the press conference addressed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to lay the text on the Table of the House, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) In keeping with normal practice during visits by Indian dignitaries, a press conference was arranged for the UP Chief Minister on 28 April, 1995, at India House in London at his request. Our High Commissioner or other officials of the High Commission did not participate in the press conference, nor was any text of the UP Chief Minister's remarks at the press conference made available to them.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Nepalese Prime Minister's proposal for record keeping along borders

7100. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBAHI A. PARMAR:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese Prime Minister, during his recent visit to New Delhi, proposed a system of record keeping to monitor the movement of people across the open Indo-Nepal border, as a step towards passport machanism; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and Governments reaction therto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

स्वतंत्रता सेनानी की अस्थियों को स्वदेश लाया जाना

7101. श्री राघवजी: क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) यह सच है कि प्रसिद्ध स्वतंत्रता सेनानी श्री श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा की अस्थियां अभी भी विदेश में पड़ी हुई हैं; यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या इन अस्थियों को भारत लाने के लिए कोई प्रयास किए गए हैं; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या निकट भविष्य में इसके लिए प्रयास किए जाएंगे?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर॰ एल॰ भाटिया): (क) जी, हां। श्री श्याम जी कृष्ण वर्मा जिनका निधन 1930 में हुआ था, की पत्नी की इच्छाओं के अनुसार श्री श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा की अस्थियों को जेनेवा के नगरपालिका के अस्थिगृह में वर्ष 2038 तक के लिए रखा गया है।

(ख) और (ग) श्री श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा समिति बंबई द्वारा किये गये अनुरोध पर भारत सरकार संबंधित स्विस प्राधिकारियों के संपर्क में है। स्विस प्राधिकारी श्री श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा की अस्थियों को भारत भेजने के

लिए इस शर्त पर तैयार है कि भारत सरकार यह प्रमाणित करे कि स्व० श्यामजी वर्मा को कोई सगा-संबंधी इस समय जीवित नहीं है। यदि उनका कोई सगा-संबंधी जीवित है, तो ऐसा अनुरोध उससे प्राप्त होना चाहिए। स्विस प्राधिकारी यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि भारत सरकार किस प्रयोजन से अस्थियां भारत लाना चाहती है। मंत्रालय गुजरात की सरकार के साथ संपर्क में है ताकि श्री श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा के सगे-संबंधी के संबंध में वस्तु स्थिति का पता लगाया जा सके। गुजरात की सरकार से इस संबंध में उत्तर प्राप्त होना है।

Indian Nationals in SAARC Countries' Jails

7102. SHRI V GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of our nationals being kept in illegal custody by SAARC countries was taken up at the appropriate level by Government in the past at any of SAARC conferences/ meetings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would see that all nationals of other countries kept in our custody, are released unilaterally after certain period to facilitate release of our nationals being kept illegally by SAARC nations; and

(d) if not, what steps are being taken to get the aged, sick and others released from the jails of SAARC nations immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L BHATIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The issue of our nationals being kept in illegal custody in SAARC countries jails was not taken up by the Government in the past at any SAARC Conferences or Meetings because it does fall within the agreed areas of cooperation as it is primarily an issue of bilateral nature.

(c) Such a proposal is not under consideration of the Government.

(d) The question of early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan had repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Our efforts continue.

Misuse of funds on receptions by MEA

7103. SHRI K.R. MALKANI. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of External Affairs holds most of its receptions in hotels and not in the Hyderabad House;

(b) whether the consumption of whiskey in these parties is shown as over 22 pegs per guest;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ths scale of consumption is not possible, if so, whether there is large scale leakage of funds under this head; and

(d) if so, what action Government contemplate to plug this loophole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Ministry of External Affairs holds receptions at Hyderabad House and in hotels in Delhi depending upon the specific requirement of particular occasions. In general, receptions hosted by Ministers and Foreign Secretary are held at Hyderabad House. In 1994, a total of 87 functions were arranged by the Ministry of External Affairs at Hyderabad House

(b) As per specific need of the occasion, alcohol is served at receptions hosted by officials of the Ministry of External Affairs. However, the consumption of whiskey varies from function to function and has not been shown as over 22 pegs per guest.

(c) and (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to monitor and control expenditure on official engagements and this practice will continue.

Opening of New Diplomatic Missions Abroad

7104 SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries in which the country's diplomatic missions have been set up,

(b) whether Government have a proposal to open new missions abroad;